

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system including

one or more business entities defining a head of a supply chain;

one or more sets of tiers of suppliers, wherein each said set of tiers is disposed in an extended supply chain;

a [[an]] workstation coupled to said one or more business entities and said one or more sets of tiers of suppliers;

a database including information from said one or more sets of tiers of suppliers relating to two or more of the following: price, inventory, delivery schedules, backorders and supply interruptions, exceptional events, contracts, and past transactions;

a dictionary of translations that can be used to translate transitive information in said information from said one or more sets of tiers of suppliers for cross-tier communication in said extended supply chain; and

an order collaboration system coupled to said workstation, whereby said one or more business entities can view updates to supply chain conditions for said plurality of said tiers.